

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims and their status are reflected below. Claims 1-7, 9-17, 20-34, 36-38, 41-43, 45 and 46 were pending in the application prior to amendment. Claims 1-5, 18-19, 21-30 and 34-47 are canceled. Claims 6, 31 and 32 are amended.

1-5 (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A memory system for storing information, the memory system comprising:

a first plurality of spare units of erase on a first chip;

a second plurality of spare units of erase on a second chip;

a first storage element on the first chip, the first storage element containing a first counter and a first threshold, the first counter indicating a number of spare units of erase on the first chip which have not yet been reassigned ;

a second storage element on the second chip, the second storage element containing a second counter and a second threshold, the second counter indicating a number of spare units of erase on the second chip which have not yet been reassigned;

a controller, the controller updating the first counter each time a spare unit of erase of the first plurality of spare units of erase is ~~reassigned~~, reassigned, the controller comparing the first counter to the first threshold value , the controller updating the second counter each time a spare unit of erase of the second plurality of spare units of erase is reassigned, the controller comparing the second counter to the second threshold value, the controller generating an end-of-life indicator when either the first counter reaches the first threshold or the second counter reaches the second threshold; and

wherein the memory system operates in conjunction with a host system and the controller reassigns a spare unit of erase in response to a request from the host system.

7. (Previously presented) The memory system of claim 6 wherein when the controller compares the first counter to the first threshold value to determine if the memory system is in an end-of-life condition, the controller determines that the memory

system is in the end-of-life condition when a value of the first counter is less than or equal to the first threshold value.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The memory system of claim 6 wherein the controller attempts to write data to a first unit of erase on the first chip, and determines if the first unit of erase is worn.

10. (Previously presented) The memory system of claim 9 wherein when it is determined that the first unit of erase is worn, the controller reassigns a first spare unit of erase included in the first plurality of spare units of erase as the first unit of erase.

11. (Previously presented) The memory system of claim 10 wherein the controller writes the data into the reassigned first spare unit of erase.

12. (Previously presented) The memory system of claim 6 wherein the controller attempts to write data to a first unit of erase on the first chip to determine if the first unit of erase is defective.

13. (Previously presented) The memory system of claim 12 wherein when it is determined that the first unit of erase is defective, the controller reassigns a first spare unit of erase included in the first plurality of spare units of erase as the first unit of erase.

14. (Previously presented) The memory system of claim 13 wherein the controller writes the data into the reassigned first spare unit of erase.

15. (Previously presented) The memory system of claim 6 wherein an individual one of the first plurality of spare units of erase is a sector, and an individual one of the second plurality of spare units of erase is a spare sector.

16. (Previously presented) The memory system of claim 6 further including:

a non-volatile memory, wherein the first plurality of spare units of erase, the second plurality of spare units of erase, and the first storage element are included in the non-volatile memory.

17. (Previously presented) The memory system of claim 6 wherein the memory system is a non-volatile memory system.

18-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The memory system of claim 6 wherein the memory system is one of a PC card, a CompactFlash card, a MultiMedia Card, a Memory Stick card, and a Secure Digital card.

21-30 (canceled)

31. (currently amended) The system of claim 6 24-wherein the host system is arranged to capture information and to attempt to store the information in the memory system.

32. (currently amended) The system of claim 31 wherein the information is one of audio information and wireless information of, audio information, and wireless information.

33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 32 wherein the host system is one of a cellular communications device, an audio player, and a video player.

34-47 (canceled)